

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02837 261752Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08

AID-05 COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /140 W

-----046354 261755Z /53

R 261119Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SU, ET

SUBJ: SUDANESE VIEW OF DAR ES SALAAM OAU MEDIATION

1. SUDANESE OFFICIALS BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY HAVE SOUGHT TO CHARACTERIZE OAU SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN RECONCILIATION MEETING AT DAR ES SALAAM AS SUCCESSFUL. MFA AFRICAN DEPT DIRECTOR BARIDO TOLD EMBOFF UPON HIS RETURN FROM DAR ES SALAAM THAT HE WAS "GREATLY ENCOURAGED" BY ITS RESULTS. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANCIS DENG IN PRESS STATEMENT SAID THAT MEETING HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL, IMPORTANT AND WILL HELP KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT "SCORE ITS OBJECTIVES."

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DENG REAFFIRMED NECESSITY OF CARRYING OUT FREETOWN RESOLUTIONS. HE DESCRIBED MAIN THEMES OF MEETING AS RESUMPTION OF NORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS OF CONFLICTS. DENG EMPHASIZED STEPS SUDAN HAS TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH FREETOWN RESOLUTION INCLUDING RESUMPTION OF ECONOMICALLY UNVIAABLE AIR FLIGHTS TO ADDIS ABABA, CESSATION OF INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AND THE RETURN OF

ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS WHO TOOK ASYLUM IN SUDAN.

2. DESPITE THESE CLAIMS OF SUCCESS, DENG'S PRESS STATEMENT IMPLIED LACK OF AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES. DENG SAID THAT ERITREAN ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND THAT SUDAN HAD STRESSED THE NECESSITIES OF SOLVING ERITREAN PROBLEM POLITICALLY AND OF AVOIDING FOREIGN INTERVENTION. NOTING THAT ERITREAN QUESTION WAS NOT DIRECTLY PART OF FREE-TOWN AGREEMENT, DENG HIGHLIGHTED FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON THIS QUESTION BECAUSE IT IS PRINCIPAL "FACTOR UNDERLYING DETERIORATION OF SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS."

3. IN TERMS OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, RESULTS OF DAR ES SALAAM MEETING APPEAR MEAGER. SUDANESE CLEARLY ARE CONCERNED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS AND STILL IS SEEKING MILITARY SOLUTION FOR ERITREA. THIS WAS REASON FOR THEIR EARLIER RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND DAR ES SALAAM MEETING. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT SUDAN DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE JEOPARDIZING OAU MEDIATION EFFORT AND, THEREFORE, SENT DELEGATION TO DAR ES SALAAM. THUS, SUDANESE ATTENDANCE WAS MORE TACTICAL THAN STRATEGIC AND THEY HELD LITTLE HOP FOR ITS SUCCESS.

4. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT DENG'S PUBLIC CHARACTERIZATION OF DAR ES SALAAM AS SUCCESSFUL MAY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVOKED SOME DEBATE WITHIN SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. WE ARE PUZZLED BY A SEPARATE PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY DENG THAT VISIT OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ABUL GASSIM TO ADDIS HAD NOT BEEN CANCELLED, BUT DATE NOT YET FIXED. DENG CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO CAUSE CANCELLATION OF ABUL GASSIM'S VISIT. ELLIPTICALLY, THIS STATEMENT SUGGESTS THAT WITHIN SUDAN GOVERNMENT THERE IS SOME CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS ON ISSUES SUCH AS RETURN OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ARMED ANSAR NOT REFLECTED IN DENG'S ORIGINAL PUBLIC STATEMENT. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO02837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780265-0069
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaasag.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2212752
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDANESE VIEW OF DAR ES SALAAM OAU MEDIATION
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, PBOR, SU, ET, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c21ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014